

our airborne division. I am grateful for General Donahue and for all of the brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who have served in Afghanistan. Their service has made our Nation more secure. No political decision can take away what their service has meant.

AMERICA IS GREAT BECAUSE IT IS GOOD

(Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, President Biden and his fellow Democrats have said that they want to fundamentally change this country.

If this country is so bad, why do we lead the world in technological advances?

If this country is so bad, why have millions of immigrants risked life and limb to get into this country?

If this country is so bad, why are we the international example of religious tolerance?

If this country is so bad, why is the dollar the standard currency throughout the world?

If this country is so bad, why do we lead the world in aiding the impoverished countries around the globe?

If this country is so bad, how could American scientists have developed a vaccine in record time that has saved millions of lives around the globe?

If this country is so bad, how could someone like Dr. Ben Carson overcome the most insurmountable of odds to become one of the great neurosurgeons in the world?

If this country is so bad, how is it possible that Americans of every background can uniquely succeed here if they are determined to do so?

If this country is so bad, why do so many think it is so good?

If this country is so good, why are so many Democrats so hellbent on tearing it apart?

HURRICANE IDA BUILDING BACK BETTER

(Mr. CARTER of Louisiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina made landfall. In the aftermath, the community came together with Federal and State partners to invest in a regional levee system to protect the New Orleans area from major flooding.

Sixteen years later, Hurricane Ida hit southeast Louisiana with roaring winds of around 150 miles per hour. Power lines snapped like popsicle sticks.

Luckily, the investments we made in flood protection largely worked. The levees held.

Sadly, other areas outside of the risk reduction zone were still heavily flood-

ed. Sadly, we find ourselves in a situation that is all too familiar. Our power grid was destroyed, leaving around 1 million-plus people without power in the sweltering heat in southeast Louisiana.

Hurricanes are predicted to become more frequent and more intense due to climate change.

The question is: Will our infrastructure be ready?

The needed investments to save lives were made after Katrina. As the Ida recovery continues, we must future-proof our power grid and levees to build back better.

GOD HAS SHED HIS GRACE ON AMERICA

(Mrs. GREENE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I have introduced Articles of Impeachment on President Joe Biden. The reason why I have done so is for his disgraceful actions having to do with Afghanistan: abandoning Americans and arming a terrorist nation, the Taliban, which is treason: giving aid and comfort to our enemies.

I have also introduced Articles of Impeachment for the national security crisis created at our southern border which today is actually being invaded.

But heading into this week, perhaps the most evil and disgusting thing that is going to happen in this 117th Congress is the bill that is going to be introduced that makes it a Federal law to allow abortion up until the day of birth.

This wall says: In God We Trust. And if that is the case, then this Congress will reject this evil bill and protect the innocent unborn. If this Nation becomes a nation where we have such a Federal law that can kill a baby up until the day of birth, then God will no longer provide protection in His grace over America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

SUBSIDIZED CHILDCARE

(Ms. JACOBS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACOBS of California. Madam Speaker, in San Diego County, which I am proud to represent, since the pandemic started, more than 500 childcare providers have closed their doors, and the families of more than 190,000 kids don't have access to the care they need.

Across the country, nearly 1.6 million moms of children under 17 are still missing from the labor force—an economic crisis decades in the making.

The Build Back Better Act is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to lower

the cost of childcare, expand availability, and boost the wages of the essential childcare workers that make our country go.

It isn't just the right thing for our families, it is the right thing for our economy. According to a Nobel Prize-winning economist, we save \$7 for every \$1 we invest in quality early childhood programs. So while some of my colleagues may argue that we can't afford to do these things, the truth is we can't afford not to.

Madam Speaker, we have to meet this moment, and we have to build back better.

REMEMBERING DAVIS COUNTY COACH DENNIS ANDERSON

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of a beloved member of the Davis County community. Last Wednesday, Hall of Fame Davis County coach Dennis Anderson passed away after a battle struggling with stage IV terminal cancer.

Dennis Anderson began his career in Davis County athletics in 1968 when he started as a physical education teacher and varsity track coach. Under his 50 years of leadership, Mr. Anderson coached 22 State champions and was named Regional Coach of the Year in 1979, 1980, and 1992 before being hired as the school's athletic director.

After his retirement from Davis County Schools in 2000, Mr. Anderson spent 7 years as a zone chief at Iowa State track meets and was named Southeast Director of the Iowa Track Officials Association.

Thank you, Dennis, for your long-time service to the Davis County community and for making Iowa a better place through being a mentor and role model for Iowa men and women.

INDEPENDENT RESCUE OPERATIONS FROM AFGHANISTAN

(Mrs. KIM of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank veterans, non-governmental organizations, congressional offices, and ordinary citizens who have stepped up where the Biden administration has failed to save the lives of Americans and our Afghan allies who fought alongside U.S. troops and now are trapped behind enemy lines.

In many cases they have taken the lead in helping Americans and our allies flee the country through independent rescue operations.

Veterans like marines Andrew Darlington and Jeremy Horton who worked with my office tirelessly helped those Afghans whom they fought

alongside. They served our country honorably in uniform and did so again when they were called.

The administration's withdrawal has been a failure, but these individuals who have volunteered to be on the front lines of saving lives are heroes, and they have shown the world why we are an exceptional people. This is not about politics; this is about America keeping the promises we made. Our mission is not over.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 4 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPIRING AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5293) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5293

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR DENTAL INSURANCE PLAN FOR VETERANS AND SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS OF VETERANS.

Section 1712C of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (j).

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY EXPANSION OF PAYMENTS AND ALLOWANCES FOR BENEFICIARY TRAVEL IN CONNECTION WITH VETERANS RECEIVING CARE FROM VET CENTERS.

Section 104(a) of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-154; 126 Stat. 1169), as most recently amended by section 5109 of the Continuing Appropriations Act,

2021 and Other Extensions Act (Public Law 116-159; 134 Stat. 749), is further amended by striking "September 30, 2021" and inserting "September 30, 2022".

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM ON ACCEPTANCE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF DONATED FACILITIES AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS.

Section 2(i) of the Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-294; 38 U.S.C. 8103 note) is amended by striking "the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act" and inserting "December 16, 2026".

SEC. 5. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 5293.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to speak today in support of H.R. 5293, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2021, offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MRVAN), the chairman of our Technology Modernization Subcommittee and my good friend.

This package ensures continued operations of several programs that are vital to addressing the needs of veterans we serve.

First, this bill removes the December 31, 2021, expiration date and makes permanent VA's dental insurance program. This benefit allows qualifying veterans, survivors, and dependents the opportunity to purchase discounted dental insurance coverage that includes preventive, diagnostic, endodontic, restorative, surgical, and emergency dental services.

Each individual covered by the program pays the entire premium for coverage in addition to the full cost of any copays. Enrollment is voluntary and does not affect eligible individuals' entitlement to existing VHA outpatient dental services and treatment.

Second, H.R. 5293 will extend VA's authority to provide travel reimbursement for certain veterans living in highly rural areas to receive care at vet centers. These centers serve as a

lifeline for veterans who may not feel comfortable seeking services at traditional VA medical facilities. They offer individual and group therapy, marriage and family counseling, and assist veterans in connecting to other VA benefits.

H.R. 5293 extends VA's authority to reimburse mileage, tolls, and other travel expenses veterans from highly rural areas may incur when traveling to vet centers.

Finally, H.R. 5293 will extend for 5 years VA's authority to operate the Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016 or the CHIP IN Act.

This program allows VA to accept donations from non-Federal entities of buildings and land that VA will use to address long-term infrastructure needs, including the delivery of healthcare services.

Examples of non-Federal entities that can make donations under the pilot include State and local authorities, a donor or donor group, limited liability corporations, or tax-exempt organizations.

The CHIP IN Act allows VA to use funds that have already been appropriated for a particular facility's construction project to assist a donor of real property and improvements with financing, designing, or constructing the facility to suit VA's needs.

Thus far, VA has accepted two donations: design and construction of a facility on the grounds of the VA Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska; and construction of an inpatient facility in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This bill will extend VA's authority to accept similar donations in other locations.

Once again, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5293, which will authorize the continued operation of these important programs.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5293, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2021. This bill is sponsored by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MRVAN), and I thank him for introducing this bill to extend expiring authorities and programs.

The VA Expiring Authorities Act of 2021 would make VA dental insurance programs permanent so that veterans under VA's care are able to buy low-cost dental insurance coverage.

It would also allow veterans to continue to receive travel benefits when seeking support at vet centers.

It would also extend VA's Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed, or CHIP IN for Vets pilot program by an additional 5 years.

The CHIP IN program allows VA to accept real property donations from nongovernment entities. The program was established by Congress in 2016. It